



CHIEF, MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS

June 1, 2007

Dear Medical Service Corps Officers,

On 30 June 2007, we celebrate the 90th Birthday of the Medical Service Corps. Our Corps has a long and distinguished history. Precursors such as Revolutionary War apothecaries, Civil War officers of the Ambulance Corps and the Army Medical Storekeepers led to the establishment of the Sanitary Corps on June 30, 1917 during World War I. The Sanitary Corps rapidly expanded to nearly 3,000 officers during the War and enabled the relief of physicians from a variety of administrative, technical and scientific duties. Today our Officers continue this proud legacy. Because of your superb efforts, the survival rate of Soldiers wounded in combat today is higher than any time in our history.

Recently many of you participated in our Mentorship Survey. This is a follow-up to a similar survey that was conducted in 2004. Leaders across the Corps are in the process of analyzing the data but preliminary results show that we have made tremendous strides in improving mentorship over the past few years. However, there are still improvements to be made. We must always remember that the future of our Corps rests in the hands of our Junior Officers.

In recognition of the role mentorship has in developing our leaders, I hereby declare June 2007 as the second annual MSC Mentorship Month. I strongly encourage Silver Caduceus Societies across the globe to participate in Mentorship Month by conducting a Birthday Celebration that will serve as a forum to accomplish group mentorship. I ask that our Leaders at all levels take the opportunity to foster meaningful and developmental mentoring relationships. MSC Mentorship Month may be celebrated by conducting a meaningful event within your organization or post-wide including all MSC's from the foxhole to the exam room and research lab in an effort to provide mentoring relationships beyond the chain of command. I urge you to also reach out and include our Retired MSC Officers. They continue to provide each of us with valuable counsel and advice that remains relevant even in today's challenging environment.

Finally, thank you for your selfless service and for meeting the extraordinary demands of our Nation. I appreciate the work you do everyday to take care of our Soldiers and their Families. Happy 90th Birthday!

Sincerely,

Sheila R. Baxter
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Chief, Medical Service Corps